

DEATH OF A VETERAN

Close of a Strange and Eventful Career.

PUGILIST, "SPORT" AND POLITICIAN.

From the Prize Ring to the Halls of Congress.

A MAN OF THE PEOPLE.

His Adventures in the East and on the Pacific Slope.

DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

The Untutored Boy Dies a Senator of His Adopted State.

SCENES AT THE DEATHBED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

SARATOGA, N. Y., May 1, 1878.

Sensor John Morrissey died at half-past seven o'clock this evening, his whole system giving way suddenly and unexpectedly. Only an hour before his release he was apparently much better and was sitting up reading the HERALD.

The Senator passed a very comfortable night, and, although his strength had failed a little, he appeared to be better than at any time since Sunday. He was able to swallow more readily, his breathing being better and the paralysis greatly diminishing. He took nourishment regularly, and the symptoms were more favorable to-day than at any time since Sunday. The physician in attendance stated that the paralysis greatly lessened the chances of Mr. Morrissey's recovery.

"Will Mr. Morrissey probably recover?" said the HERALD correspondent to Dr. Grant, this afternoon. "I think it very doubtful," was his reply. "It is really better to-day than he was yesterday?" "Yes; that is, he is easier—better than he has been since Sunday."

"Do you think that he is losing his strength?"

"He is not so strong as he was before the paralysis; that has weakened him, and is wearing on him. If we can keep up his vitality so that the system can get out all that section of the State and the adjoining counties of the New England States as a powerful built man and a terrific fighter and as having whipped every one in the surrounding country. In the fall of 1848 John Morrissey accidentally encountered O'Rourke in the square which was then at the lower end of Fourth street, and O'Rourke, who was partially intoxicated and in a quarrelsome frame of mind, struck Morrissey without any provocation. They immediately clinched for a fight, but O'Rourke's companions, knowing that he was drunk and would, consequently, be badly beaten, separated them.

Both had some of their respective gangs with them. O'Rourke at once flew to Morrissey, a regular fight ensued between the two; O'Rourke was soundly thrashed, and John Morrissey was the hero of the hour in the lower quarters of Troy. Still, O'Rourke's party were not content to submit to an unconditional surrender, and Morrissey had to fight all of O'Rourke's chosen comrades, one after another. These fights were eight in number, and were all fought during the evening. Morrissey was triumphant in all; and, although he was badly beaten, he was not hurt. His achievements were the subject of discussion and notoriety in the sporting circles in every State in the Union.

MR. MORRISSEY'S LONG ILLNESS.

The excitement and fatigue attending the election of 1871 to the exhausted the iron frame of Mr. Morrissey that he succumbed to a cold caught during the progress of that memorable struggle against Augustus Schell, the Tammany candidate in the Seventh Senatorial district. Despite the care of his physicians his patient's lungs became seriously affected, and he was ordered to the coast of Florida to pass the winter. Soon after arriving at Jacksonville Mr. Morrissey experienced considerable relief, but this favorable change was of brief duration and he was again seized with a pulmonary attack which brought him so low that his death was hourly looked for. By careful nursing, however, the danger was temporarily averted, and he improved rapidly. It was in the latter end of March Mr. Morrissey was able to return home, and expressed the belief that he would soon recover strength sufficient to enable him to take his seat in the State Senate. This hope was, however, a vain one, for soon after reaching Saratoga he for the sixth time suffered a relapse, followed by a stroke of paralysis, which finally ended in death. Never did a man make a more desperate effort to resist the ravages of disease than did John Morrissey during the six months he was a sufferer.

THE NEWS IN THIS CITY.

Although Senator Morrissey's death was regarded by his friends in this city as an event that might happen at any moment they were somewhat surprised when Mr. Ford's despatches containing the sad intelligence reached them last evening. That gentleman, who was with Senator Morrissey almost up to the time of his death, based upon its occurrence to apprise all his friends in this city by telegraph. A gloom overpowered the public centres most frequented during the day by the deceased, for his friends and acquaintances were sorrow-stricken and silent, over the death of one they had learned to love for his rugged honesty and faithful devotion to his followers and adherents.

MORRISSEY'S REMARKABLE CAREER.

The death of John Morrissey marks the close of a unique career. America is emphatically the country of self-made men; but of all those who in one way or another during the past quarter of a century have kept themselves before the public eye not one can be pointed to who, from such beginnings as his, struggled up through so many vicissitudes of fortune to a position of honor, and, we may say, respect. Born of the poorest, bred among the roughest and roughest, and yet, with a herculean frame to which muscular strength was play, and an animal courage which made fighting pastime, to drift into the then popular pugilism was a natural transition. To find him seeking fortune and adventure in California during the gold fever days, to see him at the head of an expedition little short of piratical, to find him the hero of head hammering in the prize ring and out of it, and to know that he turned from pugilism to gambling and selling liquor are not unnatural occurrences. But there the well held life of continuity breaks off. He becomes a Wall street financier, a member of Congress twice elected, a leader in politics and twice a State Senator—a power, always fighting and seldom losing a point, a man of wealth, culture and substance, a man of the highest rank and position in the State, and yet, in his old life he had never lost a battle. In truth, the rugged strength and vital force of his body were only equalled by the strength and force of his mind. If his mind had been as cultured as his fist what a man he might have been! For there was a natural grandeur of affairs in him, a keenness of perception, a directness and immutability of purpose, a thorough independence, and what ever stood him in good stead an undiminished ability to any obligation he assumed. He was a man of action and a man of his word. Add to this a large-hearted generosity, and the man may be fairly judged. Some such guide to the man must be furnished to those who saw in the election of last year (1877) not only the poor and hardworking units at his own party desert their ranks to vote for him, but the men of wealth, culture and substance flock to the polls in his favor and against a gentleman of their own class. To the latter class of his fellow citizens he was more than a convenient foil to the opposition. It was not merely that

They all had trust in his goodness.

And now that he's dead his word,

In a party sense, but that they were assured before-

hand that he was proof against jobbery, all kinds and could be relied on to form a clear judgment on public questions and to vote as he judged.

HIS START IN LIFE.

John Morrissey was the only son of Timothy Morrissey, and was born at Templemore, County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1831. Timothy Morrissey, who was an ordinary day laborer, came to the United States when John was only three years of age, and took up his residence in Troy, N. Y., where he continued to live and work as a laborer till his son was in a position to support him. So late as 1874 the old gentleman was alive and hearty, never having known a day of ill health, and was a great favorite with his family, and not requiring to use special care, though eighty-five years of age. John Morrissey's school education was comprised in the attendance of a common school for one year, during which time, as he himself admitted, he learned more mischief than letters. It was not till he was nineteen years of age that he was seized with a desire to learn to read and write, and it will surprise many to learn that he taught himself. The older Morrissey, having seven little girls to support as well as his boy, and only earning \$1 or ten shillings a day, was necessarily compelled to put his son to work as early in life as possible. When twelve he was sent to the city of New York, and took up his residence in Felt's street, John Morrissey began the battle of life in Orr's wall paper factory, at the hands some wages of \$1 25 a week. In those days the printing of wall paper was all done by hand, and Morrissey's employment consisted in brushing the color on to the cloth on which the printer pressed his wood cut blocks in order to transfer the color to the paper. Morrissey worked in Orr's factory for two years and then went into the rolling mill of the Burden Iron Works, where he had to sell the red hot bars with nippers as they came sliding from the rolls, and draw them away to the cooling pans. Morrissey worked for one year in the iron works, receiving \$2 50 a week. John C. Heenan worked in the same shop with him. In 1846, he went into the stove foundry of Johnson, Cox & Co., where he worked as a helper in the moulding room for two years. While there he assisted in making bombshells for the government to be used in the Mexican war. In those days the stove foundries of Troy always lay idle during the three winter months. Johnson, Cox & Co., therefore, filled up this vacant part of their business year during the war by taking a contract for bombshells from the government.

MORRISSEY'S LEGS.

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